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FROM WINNFELD TO WASHINGTON



THE LIFE AND CAREER OF

HUEY P. LONG



AN EXHIBITION
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From Winnfield to Washington: The Life and Career of Huey P. Long

Matt Farah, John H. Lawrence, and Amanda McFillen, curators

It would be difficult to identify a figure in Louisiana's political history who combined popular appeal and national impact more powerfully than Huey Pierce Long Jr. (1893–1935). Widely known as the Kingfish, he is remembered today as the protagonist in a series of colorful anecdotes, a manipulative and crafty politician, and the victim of a shooting, in Louisiana's capitol building, that still engenders speculation. These portrayals, while grounded in truth, strip him of nuances of thought and behavior, motive and process. His broadly populist political philosophy, Share Our Wealth platform, and strong grip on every detail of the political process were built over the course of his relatively short life, and from a variety of experiences. At the time of his death, Long's message was beginning to attain national momentum. *From Winnfield to Washington: The Life and Career of Huey P. Long* presents elements of the Kingfish's story and suggests its relevance to the state's modern political development.

Huey Long's early life had elements of hardship, but it was not nearly as difficult as the picture he painted of it when campaigning and politicking in Louisiana. His upbringing, while not luxurious, was solidly middle class. In the small community of Winnfield, Louisiana, the Long family's circumstances were better than most. But identifying with the state's poor voters, and especially those in rural areas, was a tactic that Long effectively employed.

The beneficiary of a mixture of formal and self-directed education, Long passed the Louisiana bar, began a family, and, in 1918, achieved his first elected political office, a seat on the Railroad Commission. Five years later, he ran for governor, finishing in third place behind Hewitt Bouanchaud and Henry L. Fuqua, respectively. Fuqua picked up most of Long's supporters in the runoff election to surge past Bouanchaud; upon his death, in 1926, he was replaced by Lieutenant Governor Oramel H. Simpson. The 1924 governor's race was the last election that Long would ever lose. In 1928 he easily won the Democratic primary in the race for Louisiana's top executive office against two opponents and trounced Republican Etienne J. Caire in the general election. In the span of a decade, he had risen from the state railroad commission to the governor's mansion. Once there, his actions would be large, decisive, and lasting.

Louisiana's built environment was radically restructured during Long's gubernatorial regime and his tenure in the United States Senate. Large capital projects embodied his notion of progress. Ribbons of roads began crisscrossing Louisiana, as Long implemented the creation of nearly thirteen thousand miles of improved thoroughfares (paved, asphalt, and gravel). When these roads met the edge of a bayou or river, the governor's mandates often ensured that a free bridge be built to allow journeys to continue across the aqueous barrier. Hospitals,

Huey P. Long in Louisiana State University's Greek Theatre;
ca. 1930; photoprint; *The Anna Wynne Watt and Michael D. Wynne Jr.*
Collection, 2013.0027.2.170

courthouses, schools, and other public structures were built or planned, often in the style of art deco or international modernism. Perhaps no single structure better exemplifies Long's architectural contributions than the Capitol in Baton Rouge. But Charity Hospital and Shushan Airport, both in New Orleans, are indicative that Long's reach was not limited to the halls of government but extended to modern (and free) medicine and the latest form of transportation. As important as the built structures were in proclaiming Louisiana's (and Long's) beneficence, the services dispensed within the buildings—education, nourishment, medical care, justice—were what the voters experienced and remembered.

Only two years into his gubernatorial term, Long sought a national audience for his politics. Louisianans elected him to the US Senate in the fall of 1930, but he did not arrive in Washington until January 1932. In the months between winning the election and assuming office, Long worked for the ouster of Lieutenant Governor Paul Cyr, who was almost sure to terminate many of Long's programs. Lawsuits and court decisions ultimately ensured that his hand-picked successor, Alvin O. King, would keep the programs in place.

Long's election to senator was part of a long-held political plan confided, years before, to his wife: to rise from local office to the role of governor, senator, and finally president. Victorious in 1930, Long was

GIVE THE PEOPLE A GOVERNOR



HUEY P. LONG

**REDUCED TAXES, LESS OFFICERS, FREE
SCHOOL BOOKS TO SCHOOL CHILDREN
AND NUMEROUS OTHER CON-
STRUCTIVE REFORMS.**

**HE HAS ALWAYS STOOD BY THE PEOPLE AND
KEPT THE PROMISES WHICH HE HAS MADE**



three quarters of the way to his ultimate destination. In the US Senate, Long was initially supportive of Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal, first rolled out in 1933, but parted ways with the president because he felt the program wasn't focused enough on those who really needed the relief. With his redistributive Share Our Wealth philosophy, launched in 1934, Long began forming his own presidential ambitions

Huey P. Long campaign card; 1923; halftone; *The Anna Wynne Watt and Michael D. Wynne Jr. Collection*, 2013.0027.2.166



for the 1936 election. Thousands of Share Our Wealth clubs sprang up around the country, furthering a grassroots effort to spread the message. Long's presidential campaign even had a theme song. "Every Man a King," the title adapted from a 1900 speech by populist leader William Jennings Bryan, was authored by Long and bandleader Castro Carazo. The national media took notice

but mostly characterized Long as a demagogue or crackpot. Like Roosevelt, Long effectively used radio broadcasts to spread his message. He also established a periodical, *The American Progress*, in 1933, to keep supporters informed of his views.

Long officially broke with the Democratic Party when he launched a third-party candidacy for the presidency in 1935. He actively opposed New Deal

"Every Man a King"; by Huey P. Long and Castro Carazo; New Orleans: National Book, 1935; 86-899-RL

candidates, and New Dealers sought the defeat of Long partisans in Louisiana. The outcome of this political struggle was made moot by Long's death on September 10, 1935, from a gunshot wound he suffered on September 8 in a melee in the Louisiana State Capitol. Dr. Carl Weiss, identified as Long's killer, died in the considerable gunfire produced by the senator's bodyguards. Long's widow, Rose McConnell Long, was appointed to fill his Senate seat and served until January 3, 1937. The Kingfish's political action plan, *My First Days in the White House*, was posthumously published in 1935. In 1941 Louisiana presented a bronze statue of Huey Long to the National Statuary Hall in Washington, and this monument on view in the rotunda of the US Capitol is among those within the complex representing notables from every state.

The Long political network remained operational but was much diminished without its founder's critical acumen, instincts, and skills. Oscar K. Allen, a Winnfield native and trusted political ally who served as Louisiana's governor from 1932 to 1936, often acted under advice, if not orders, from the Kingfish. When Allen died in office, his term was completed by James A. Noe, another Long supporter. New Orleanian Richard Leche defeated the anti-Long candidate Cleveland Dear in the 1936 governor's race, but he was driven from office by scandal in 1939 before completing his term. Long's younger brother, Earl Kemp Long, Leche's lieutenant

governor, finished the term but lost to Sam Houston Jones in the 1940 gubernatorial election. Though Earl Long would return to the governor's mansion for single terms in 1948 and again in 1956, it was Huey Long's son Russell B. Long who had the longest political career in the family. Russell Long was elected US Senator from Louisiana in 1948 and served for thirty-eight years, retiring in 1986.

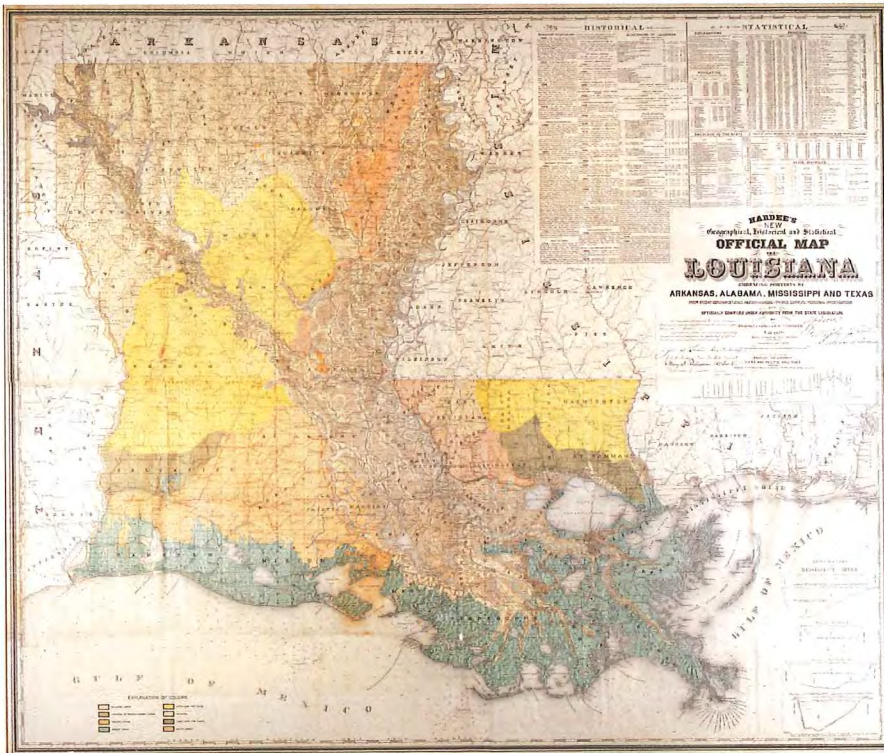
Although he held office for less than two decades, Huey Long redefined Louisiana politics. His sympathy for the common man and disdain for powerful interests, coupled with peerless political instincts, allowed him to actualize populist and progressive ideals spouted but never attained by his predecessors. Long's legacy continues to color state politics down to the present day—inviting assessments by pundits and politicians that, invariably, say more about the viewer's perspective than they do about the complexities of the man himself.



Revolver belonging to George McQuiston, one of Huey Long's bodyguards; steel, wood; *The Anna Wynne Watt and Michael D. Wynne Jr. Collection*, 2013.0310.2.2



Early Life



The seventh of nine children, Huey P. Long Jr. was born on August 30, 1893, to Huey Pierce Long Sr. (1852–1937) and Caledonia Palestine Tison Long (1860–1913), middle-class farmers. His paternal grandfather, John M. Long, had settled in the small town of Winnfield—the seat of government of Winn Parish, in the north-central part of Louisiana—in 1859. Young Huey was initially homeschooled and then attended Winnfield public schools through the eleventh grade, but he did not complete the newly instituted twelfth grade. He pursued higher

education at the University of Oklahoma's law school. When he married Rose McConnell, in 1913, he withdrew from school in order to work exclusively as a salesman, a job that took him across Louisiana and other parts of the Deep South. Long's travels throughout the Pelican State gave him tremendous insight into the differences among Louisiana's population and foreshadowed his ability to campaign effectively by exploiting these variations.

In 1914 Long lost successive sales positions due to a business reorganization and a nationwide

Hardee's New Geographical, Historical and Statistical Official Map of Louisiana. . . ; 1895; color lithograph by William J. Hardee; 1959.201.25 i,ii



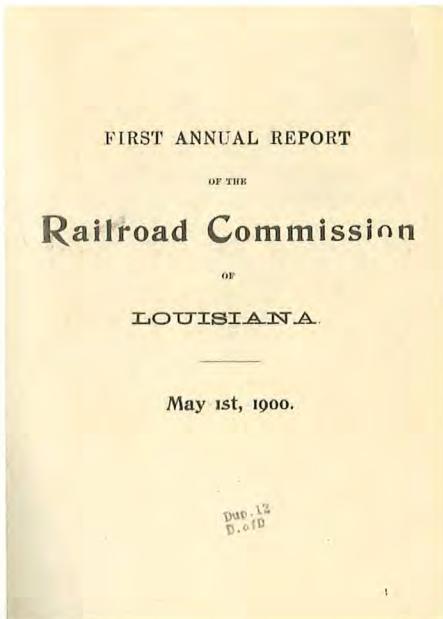
economic downturn. His older brother Julius offered financial support so that his sibling could have a year of further legal education at Tulane University, in New Orleans. In May 1915, after taking and passing a special state examination, the twenty-one-year-old Long was admitted to the Louisiana bar and began practicing law in Winnfield. In 1918 the Longs moved to Shreveport, in the northwest corner of Louisiana. Daughter Rose, born in 1917, was joined by sons Russell, in 1918, and Palmer, in 1921.

On the campaign trail, after beginning a life in politics, Huey Long described his upbringing in Winnfield in terms of hard work and deprivation. Long accomplished two things with this truth-stretching approach: he identified himself with poor voters and created the notion that personal determination was responsible for his rags-to-riches ascent to high political office.

Palmer, Russell, wife Rose, Huey, and daughter Rose Long
celebrating the governor's thirty-sixth birthday; 1929; 1990.76.2 i



Entry Into Politics



The same year that he moved to Shreveport, Long ran successfully for one of three seats on Louisiana's Railroad Commission, a regulatory body established in the 1898 state constitution that held sway over thousands of miles of railroad tracks and carriers large and small. The commission also regulated most intrastate public utilities, including electrical companies and motor carriers. Long believed that the commission's actions were controlled by powerful, well-financed business interests—like the ones he encountered in his law practice—and he focused his campaign on the rights of the “little man.” Bypassing established party bosses and political rings, he spoke directly to the voters.

The job provided incumbents with great political visibility—and the opportunity to make decisions that directly affected constituents' pocketbooks. When elected Third District commissioner, in 1918, Long assumed responsibility for territory spanning twenty-eight of Louisiana's sixty-four parishes. In 1922 he became chairman of the body, newly renamed the Public Service Commission by mandate of the 1921 state constitution. To this day, the commission remains a stepping-stone in state politics: in addition to Long, three other former Public Service commissioners—James H. “Jimmie” Davis (1944), John J. McKeithen (1964, 1968), and Kathleen B. Blanco (2004)—have ascended to Louisiana's governorship.

1916 Map of the State of Louisiana Issued for the Railroad Commission of Louisiana (detail); 1916; color lithograph by George F. Cram Company; gift of Boyd Cruise, 1956.16

First Annual Report of the Railroad Commission of Louisiana; [Baton Rouge]: Office of the Railroad Commission of Louisiana, 1900; 69-182-LP.7



Gubernatorial Elections

Huey Long's early forays into politics aided him greatly in his ability to rally support for his later runs for higher office. No stranger to showmanship, he announced his candidacy for the 1924 gubernatorial election on August 30, 1923—his thirtieth birthday. Long's first campaign for governor was marked by a conscious effort to battle Standard Oil and to create tangible infrastructure improvements through the construction of newer and better roads. He had very little, if any, political organization at the statewide level, though he had wide recognition from his time with the Public Service Commission. Long himself later admitted, "I had neither newspaper nor organized political support, other than my own scattered faction"—and the lack of positive press hampered his reach. Nevertheless, Long would amass nearly seventy-four thousand votes, some 31 percent of the total in the Democratic primary, in his first bid for the governor's seat. Although Long did not make the runoff election, this was the best performance by a candidate of his age in the history of the state and provided the young man from Winnfield with ample confidence for another run.

Long was not the only Winn Parish native to challenge incumbent Oramel H. Simpson in the gubernatorial race of 1928. While Long drew the majority of his support from rural Louisiana, Riley Wilson was backed by the urban elite of New Orleans. Their ideological debate, played out over the course of the campaign, would establish the

The Empire of the KINGFISH



What's It All About?
What Makes the Wheels
Go Round in Huey Long's
Domain? — Liberty Bell
WILL IRWIN
to Get the Facts, This
Series Is the Result

PART ONE—THE DICTATOR

WHEN the East and North they are still inclined to laugh at Huey P. Long, the Kingfish. They no longer laugh at him in Louisiana. This rough, ruffian, original back-countryman, with his active brain, his demonic energy, his ruthlessness, his unbounded personal ambition, and his dramatic instinct, holds the state in the hollow of his hand. He is the first American ever to establish a dictatorship in time of peace—a dictatorship that is a strange mixture of Hitlerism, bokum, and Tammany Hall, plus a certain amount of real political vision. For he has got things done in Louisiana; and many of those things have worked for the improvement and modernization of the state—even though they may have worked toward the greater glory of Long and for

the personal advantage of some among his supporters. He is the strangest and most unpatterned figure that has risen in the United States since the Civil War. In conduct, he breaks all rules of the political game—and gets away with it. In character, he presides the anomalies of a most audacious man with a streak of physical timidity, and a likely demagogue. A good part of Louisiana hates him. Another part would walk over hot coals at his command.

Northern newspaper readers have wondered how such a personality could possibly acquire such power in any American state. The answer is, he has first-class genius for practical politics, and he has the power to bind to himself men of certain temperaments with the traditional hoops of steel. Further, he has a radical program which appeals to many who have not come under

tone for Long's lifelong fight against the state's established political base. On primary day, Long saw a fifty-thousand-vote bump over his 1924 tally. His 44 percent of the vote stood as the highest total ever recorded in a Louisiana primary and discouraged both of his opponents from entering a runoff.

Support in the state legislature aided Long in enacting many of his progressive reforms. He was

At left: Louisiana's "beautiful if somewhat grandiose" new state capitol, which the Kingfish erected.

READING TIME • 31 MINUTES 15 SECONDS

IN the subsequent inquiry, witnesses testified to all the irregular actions of Long which I have mentioned and more. They were all supported by the required two-thirds majority. To block this measure in the Senate, he needed more than thirteen votes; and his supporters were fewer than that.

Senators found themselves called by night to the governor's office. Then one fine morning five members signed what amounted to a round robin announcing that they would not vote against Long under any circumstances. Some of those were Long men. One or two others doubtless changed their opinions on honest conviction. The rest were to find themselves or their relatives living pleasantly through hard times as employees of the state. It was clear that the legislature was up to the neck and adjoined.

The citizens considered him a political accident. It was a three-cornered fight, and Long appeared to have slipped in. The first and regular session of the legislature proved almost a deadlock. The legislature refused to pass most of his radical anti-corporation bills; he retorted by vetoing the members' bills. Long called an extra session. In the meantime he had torn down the fine historic Old Executive Mansion as a back number. He had caused

This happened in 1929, the peak year of prosperity. During the six years that followed, Huey Long gradually reduced the state legislature to the position of the Reichstag under Hitler. The legislature of 1934 held three extra sessions, called overnight; the final one lasted just five days. It passed forty-four bills, many of them unprecedented in an American state for the powers given

These performances, together with the loud, aggressive, irritating personality of Long himself, set legislative nerves on edge. House and Senate began to whisper the word "impeachment." It was becoming convenient for Long to dissolve the session. Then a mere slip in reading the record on a voting machine precipitated a riot—fists, feet, flying inkwells, threats of gunplay. When the legislature grew relatively calm, it opened impeachment proceedings.

IN the subsequent inquiry, witnesses testified to all the irregular actions of Long which I have mentioned—and more. The House voted impeachment by the required two-thirds majority. To block this measure in the Senate, he needed more than thirteen votes; and his sup-

porters were fewer than that.

Senators found themselves called by night to the governor's offices. Then one fine morning fifteen members signed what amounted to a round robin announcing that they would not vote against Long under any circumstances. Some of these were *Long men*. One or two others thought they were doing the right thing in honest conviction. The rest were to find themselves or their relatives living pleasantly through hard times as employees of the state. That was that—the legislature gave up the fight and adjourned.

This happened in 1929, the peak year of prosperity. During the six years that followed, Huey Long gradually reduced the state legislature to the position of the Reichstag under Hitler. The legislature of 1934 held three extra sessions, called overnight; the final one lasted just five days. It passed forty-four bills, many of them unprecedented in an American state for the powers given

He falls to realize that it is the people's money, your money, he is big and throwing away.

"Long has not only lowered the standards, but has made Lenin the laughing stock of the nation. It would be a tragedy to send him to Washington."

"Do you think the Senate will send a convicted thief, a man tried by the House of Representatives for embezzlement?"

"Every self-respecting, unselfish citizen of Louisiana considers that the honor of his state would be enriched by the election of Long to the United States Senate.

"This state has received untold adverse notoriety, has had her name brought into disrepute and has been made the domicile of the nation's greatest political crime, lynch law. It has betrayed public confidence and has squandered the state's money. It is a chronic sufferer, has sought to wreak political vengeance upon individuals and communities, and dares impugn the motives of honest men and women. Confronted before the courts as a flatter, indicted by a jury of his peers for contempt, for high crimes and misdemeanors, he has begged for mercy from beloved state through the mob, riot and prison of the political arena in Louisiana."

Nicholas Carvajal, state campaign manager for Long in 1928 and the man who organized the first Long state in the state, said in a speech on August 31:

able to pass a free textbook bill for schools, both public and parochial, and a \$30 million internal improvement bond plan was offered to voters for their consideration. Long's plan to increase taxes on oil companies no doubt led to an effort by Standard Oil supporters in the legislature to impeach the new governor in his first year in office. Yet Long's political savvy and support from a broad

The Truth Will Bury Huey Long!; New Orleans: Panama Engraving, ca. 1930; 70-76-L.5

FIFTEEN CENTS (IN CANADA, 20¢)
(Reason: Taxed)

April 1, 1935

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The Weekly Newsmagazine



International

Volume XXV

CANDIDATE LONG

Give him honor or give him death!
(See NATIONAL AFFAIRS)

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The National Stage

Huey Long's political star was on the rise following his decisive victory in the 1928 gubernatorial election and his swift defeat of impeachment charges. He had shown incredible efficiency, if not necessarily finesse, with his ability to effect legislative change at the state level. Long's will and charisma allowed him to go from being a small-town lawyer to one of the most powerful politicians in the United States, and his quick rise underlined his exceptional political skill.

Long never gave up on his self-proclaimed position as champion of the common man. After his successful bid for the US Senate gave him joint status as sitting governor of Louisiana and senator elect, he continued to carry forward his progressive agenda. And for the time being, at least, he enjoyed a mutually beneficial relationship with the established power structure in the Democratic Party.

Once he arrived in the Senate, Long lost no time in amplifying his national profile. With small regard for congressional traditions respecting tenure, the rookie legislator routinely delivered long, eloquent speeches on legislation he supported and spit incendiary vitriol at those who opposed him. This behavior on the Senate floor made many Democrats very nervous—none more so than President Roosevelt, who came to regard the Kingfish (along with Douglas MacArthur) as “one of the two most dangerous men in the country.”

Long's growing disdain for President Roosevelt's New Deal appeared to run counter to his concern for the common man. In fact, Long's critique represented a radical challenge to the essential conservatism of reform politics. It was Long's contention that the New Deal did not go far enough: it would simply enhance the wealth of the already rich by empowering them in different ways. The program he proposed—Share Our Wealth—would tax the wealthiest Americans in an attempt to close the poverty gap. His proposal was especially popular in rural areas of poor states like Louisiana and extremely unpopular with wealthy urbanites such as the old-guard New Orleanians who had long been the Kingfish's adversaries.

Once Long gained enough power to consider his own run at the White House, the Roosevelt administration took quick steps to distance itself from the Louisiana firebrand. Provided Long's brand of populism propped up Roosevelt's agenda, the president had been willing to tolerate the senator. But by 1934, the alliance was frayed beyond repair, and the Share Our Wealth program completed the break.



"Long Shot, Assailant Slain"

On the night of September 8, 1935, Senator Huey Long was attending a special state legislative session at the Louisiana State Capitol. Even though he was no longer governor, Long still exerted enormous influence over the legislative process in Louisiana, as evinced by his presence in Baton Rouge. After the session, he and his bodyguards were walking down a narrow corridor when Dr. Carl Weiss Sr., a twenty-nine-year-old doctor from Baton Rouge, stepped in front of Long.

Accounts differ as to what, exactly, occurred next—but the most widely accepted narrative holds that Weiss shot Long in the abdomen. Weiss was then gunned down by Long's bodyguards and died instantly. Transported to Our Lady of the Lake Hospital, Long underwent surgery but succumbed to his injuries two days later, on September 10, at the age of forty-two. The funeral, held in the Louisiana State Capitol on September 12, was attended by an estimated two hundred thousand people.

To this day, theories and doubts linger concerning what happened in the Capitol that night. Many believe that Weiss, angered by Long's interference with the political career of Weiss's father-in-law, Judge Benjamin Henry Pavy, deliberately shot Long. Others believe that Weiss merely intended to confront Long—and that Long's bodyguards overreacted, opened fire, and accidentally shot the senator in the ensuing melee. The full facts surrounding Long's death may never be known.



In Memoriam: Huey P. Long; 1935; broadside by Pete D. Dunn;
86-2195-RL

"Long Shot, Assailant Slain"; from the *New Orleans Times-Picayune*;
facsimile reproduction of September 9, 1935, edition; September
7, 1975; *The Anna Wynne Watt and Michael D. Wynne Jr. Collection*,
2013.0027.2.163

ASSASSIN

NEW ROADS CHILD KILLED BY BULLET FIRED IN SCUFFLE FOR OFFICER'S GUN

Slug Goes Through Wall, Hits Sleeping Child; Two Brothers Attacked Him, Says Marshal

ONE IS SHOT IN LEG DURING STRUGGLE

Was Beaten With Bottle, Declares Policeman; Hotel Owner Rushes to Aid; Inquest Continues Today

By George Vandeventer
New Roads, La., Sept. 8.—(By The Times-Picayune Staff.)—A young child, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Langue of New Roads, was fatally wounded early this morning when a bullet, fired as two men struggled with Night Marshal Armand Patis, went through the wall of the Langue home and struck the child in the body as she lay asleep.

Ward of the child, who was with the mother, said she had been attacked by the two men, and that the child was killed by a bullet fired by one of them.

Police Link Dede Gunman to Eight SLAYINGS IN EAST

Tony the Stinger Snails Out Answers to New York Police

By George Vandeventer
New Roads, La., Sept. 8.—(By The Times-Picayune Staff.)—An inquest was started today by Dr. C. C. Roberts, parish coroner, but was postponed until tomorrow when testimony will be taken.

The two men who were with the child, and who were attacked by the Night Marshal, were identified as Tony the Stinger and Snails.

The two men who were with the child, and who were attacked by the Night Marshal, were identified as Tony the Stinger and Snails.

Will Talk Testimony
No testimony was taken today because of the death of the child.

He had risen from his birthplace in the piney woods of northern Louisiana to become the absolute political leader of the state and a powerful force on the national political scene.

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HOUSE ADVANCES LONG'S PROGRAM TO THIRD READING

Committee Speedily Gives Approval to 39 of 42 Bills

MEASURES SLATED FOR PASSAGE TODAY

Hearing Clarifies Intent to Control or Bar U. S. Funds in State

By George Vandeventer
The Times-Picayune Staff Representative
New Orleans, La., Sept. 8.—(By The Times-Picayune Staff.)—The House of Representatives today advanced the program of control or prohibition of the expenditure of federal funds in Louisiana and the restoration of \$100,000 of annual revenue to the city government of New Orleans.

Under the personal guidance of Senator Long, the way and means committee, at its customary brief session this morning, acted favorably on 39 of the 42 bills introduced in the House of Representatives Saturday night, when Louisiana's Legislature was convened in extraordinary session.

The bills were reported back to the House when it was in session at 10 o'clock tonight, and, under suspension of the rules, were advanced to third reading. All of the measures finally passed by the House Monday will be transmitted to the Senate for action by that body.

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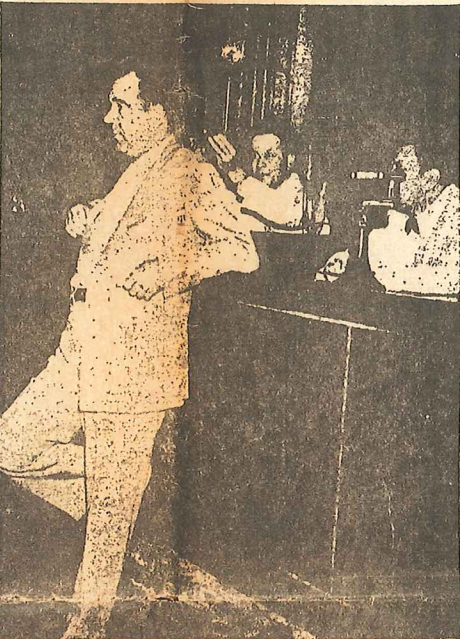
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Long Seen at Legislative Session Before Shooting



U. S. Senator Huey P. Long is shown above as he stood on the floor in front of the speaker's desk at the opening of the special session of the Legislature. The scene was shot from the gallery.

LOUISIANA GUARDSMEN a British Schooner, Cargo of Liquor

Vessel Fired On Off Jersey Coast in Largest Seizure Since 1921; 20 Officers, Seamen Arrested

By George Vandeventer
New Orleans, La., Sept. 8.—(By The Times-Picayune Staff.)—Twenty British officers and crew were taken aboard today by the U. S. Coast Guard cutter, the USS Albatross, in the largest seizure of liquor since 1921.

The cutter, which was on patrol off the coast of Jersey, fired on the schooner, the M. S. Albatross, and captured it.

The schooner, which was carrying a cargo of liquor, was captured by the U. S. Coast Guard cutter, the USS Albatross.

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DOCTOR KILLED AFTER SHOOTING SENATOR

Dr. Carl A. Weiss, Jr., Riddled With Bullets by Bodyguards; Lung, Clutching Stomach Is Removed to Hospital for Operation; Condition Reported Not Critical by Attending Physician

Battalion of State National Guardsmen Called Out as Aftermath of Shooting in Fear of Possible Violence; Confusion Reigns on All Sides as News Spreads Throughout Baton Rouge

By George Vandeventer
Baton Rouge, La., Sept. 8.—(By The Times-Picayune Staff.)—Following upon the shooting of Senator Huey P. Long by a bodyguard, Dr. Carl A. Weiss, Jr., a battalion of State National Guardsmen were called out.

The Guardsmen were ordered out in fear of possible violence resulting as an aftermath to the shooting.

As word of the shooting spread throughout the city, confusion reigned on all sides.

Baton Rouge, La., Sept. 8.—(By The Times-Picayune Staff.)—One of the Mayo brothers of Rochester, Minn., it is said, is on his way to Baton Rouge by airplane. The Baton Rouge airport has been lighted.

By George Vandeventer
The Times-Picayune Staff Representative
State House, Baton Rouge, La., Sept. 8.—Senator Huey P. Long was shot in the stomach and seriously wounded by a man identified as Dr. Carl A. Weiss, Jr., of Baton Rouge, as he walked out of the chamber of the House of Representatives at 9:20 o'clock tonight.

The man identified as Dr. Weiss by Dr. Thomas Bird, coroner of East Baton Rouge parish, was killed instantly by a bullet fired into him by the senator's bodyguards.

With his hands held over his stomach, and accompanied by bodyguards, Senator Long rushed down the rear stairs, leading from the main floor of the Capitol to the basement, from where he was taken to the nearby Lady of the Lake hospital.

Lieutenant Governor James A. Noe, who arrived at the hospital about after Senator Long was shot there, telephoned Mr. Long at his home, and told her to come to Baton Rouge at once with the children.

Mr. Noe, in his conversation with Mr. Long, quoted Dr. Arthur Vidrine, superintendent of the New Orleans Charity hospital, as saying that Senator Long's condition was not critical.

After communicating with Mrs. Long, Lieutenant Governor Noe put in a long distance call for Seymour Weiss, president of the New Orleans dock board, but it is not known what he told Mr. Weiss.

No one was admitted to the operating room where Senator Long was said to be undergoing an emergency operation. Mr. Noe said Mrs. Long, that the senator was not unconscious at the time, 9:30 p. m., he was talking to her.

One of the bodyguards who accompanied Senator Long to the hospital said that the senator was shot twice, once in the abdomen and once in the chest. This statement of this statement could not be obtained from hospital authorities.

ASSASSIN RIDDLED
This bodyguard said that Senator Long was shot just as he was leaving the chamber of the House of Representatives for the Governor's office, about 30 feet away. The bodyguard said the senator's assailant was riddled with bullets and died instantly.

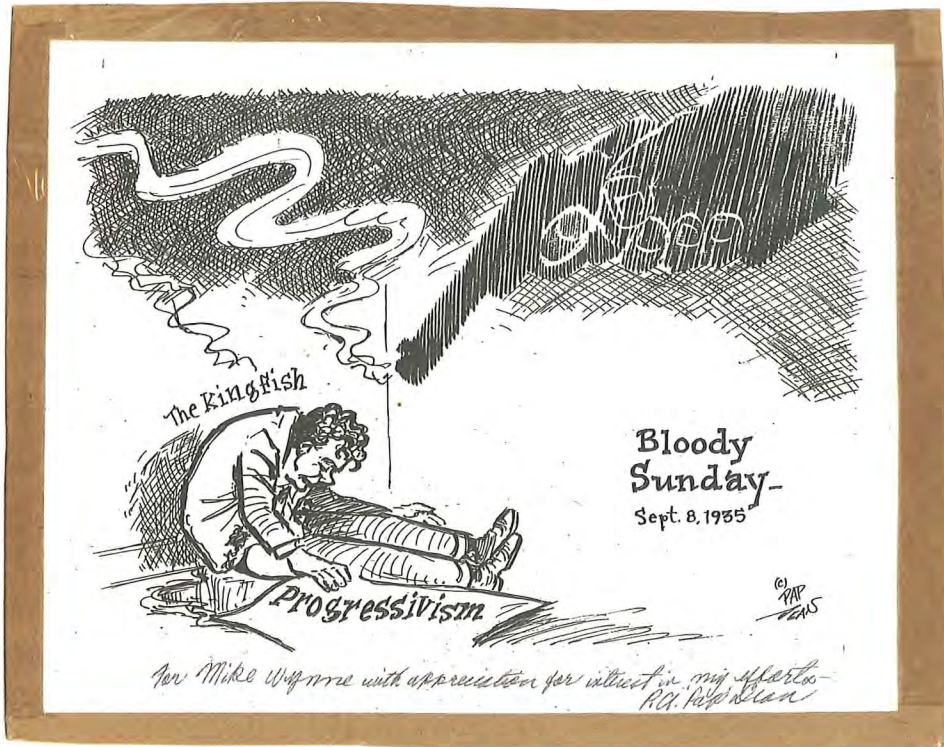
The identification of the man who shot Senator Long was made about three hours after he was killed.

Joe W. Bates, assistant superintendent of the state bureau of identification, who also identified Dr. Weiss as the attacker, said Weiss was a salesman of B. H. Pary, district judge of Opelousas.

Dr. Weiss is said to have been about 30 years old, and a native of Baton Rouge. He was an eye, ear, nose and throat specialist. He was the son of Dr. C. A. Weiss, Sr., also a specialist, and was associated with his father in the practice of his profession in Baton Rouge.



In the Shadow of the Kingfish

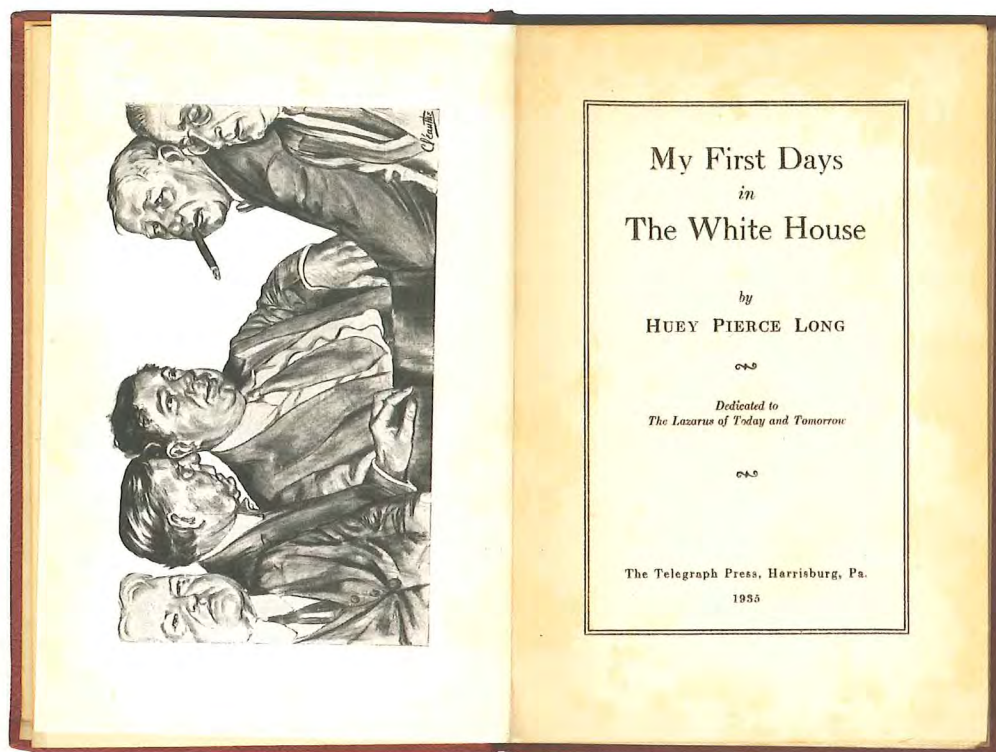


Eighty years after his death, Huey Long's political legacy remains under debate. Whether or not one agrees with his ideology or his questionable methods of leadership, it is difficult to deny the wide scope of his career. In his seventeen-year career in public service, he upended the political ruling class in Louisiana and created his own political dynasty. For decades after his death, citizens of the state would still identify politically as either pro- or anti-Long. Thirteen of his family members would serve in politics, including his

brother Earl, a two-term governor of Louisiana, and his son Russell, who had a thirty-eight-year career in the US Senate. In the current makeup of Louisiana's state senate, Gerald Long, representing District 31, continues the family name in politics.

Long's aggressive infrastructure program brought the state thousands of miles of roads and bridges; landmark public buildings such as Charity Hospital, in New Orleans, and the Capitol, in Baton Rouge; and facilities expansions to his beloved Louisiana State University. By abolishing poll taxes and

Bloody Sunday—Sept. 8, 1935; February 14, 1994; ink by Preston Allen "Pap" Dean; The Anna Wynne Watt and Michael D. Wynne Jr. Collection, 2013.0027.2.172



providing free textbooks and school lunches to students, he made a positive impact on the lives of many Louisianans, young and old. Countless books, films, documentaries, and scholarly articles examine Long's life and legacy, while several fictional works, most notably Robert Penn Warren's *All the King's Men*, serve as cautionary tales about tyranny and political corruption.

So in the end, what do we make of this charismatic man? Was he the "dangerous" figure abhorred by President Franklin D. Roosevelt or

was he, as his friend William Langer observed, "that fearless, dauntless, unmatched champion of the common people?" Perhaps it is best to look to the Kingfish himself for the final word: Long once declared himself *sui generis*, unique unto himself. The material traces of his life, as sampled and considered in this exhibition, uphold that assessment.

My First Days in the White House; by Huey Pierce Long; Harrisburg, PA: Telegraph, 1935; gift of Mrs. Aston Fischer and Mrs. Carl Corbin, 81-1037-RL



Acknowledgments



Within the last few years, The Historic New Orleans Collection has received groups of materials that make an examination of Huey P. Long's life and career both possible and productive. Among these collections are the Anna Wynne Watt and Michael D. Wynne Jr. Collection, which includes materials donated by the reporter and author David Zinman; the Joseph M. Mardesich III Papers, donated by Deborah Ann Mardesich and Stephanie M. Mardesich; the Stiegler Family Papers, donated by Irma Stiegler; and the Thomas E. Weiss Papers on Carl Austin Weiss. Together, these holdings present a multifaceted view of Huey P. Long and his political activities.

The exhibition is augmented with materials lent by other institutions. At Tulane University's Howard-

Tilton Memorial Library, Bruce Boyd Raeburn, director of Special Collections, and his colleagues Leon Miller, head of the Louisiana Research Collection; Sean Benjamin, public services librarian; and Kathleen McCallister, rare books library associate, were most helpful and responsive to inquiries regarding the library's Huey Long holdings. At the University of New Orleans's Earl K. Long Library, Florence M. Jumonville, chair of the Louisiana and Special Collections department, directed the curators to a number of items focusing on the free textbook program in Louisiana that may have otherwise been overlooked. At Louisiana State University's Hill Memorial Library, Tara Z. Laver, curator of manuscripts, and Judy Bolton, head of public services, provided access to additional material. Keith and Millie Marshall graciously loaned a caricature of Huey Long by Louisiana artist John McCrady. An original copy of the *Times-Picayune* covering Huey Long's funeral on the front page was generously lent by the Hubbs family. The curators thank all of these individuals and organizations for their interest and assistance.

The board and staff of The Historic New Orleans Collection performed their customary critical role in bringing this exhibition to fruition. The listing on the following page recognizes some of the particular contributors.

— Matt Farah, John H. Lawrence, and Amanda McFillen

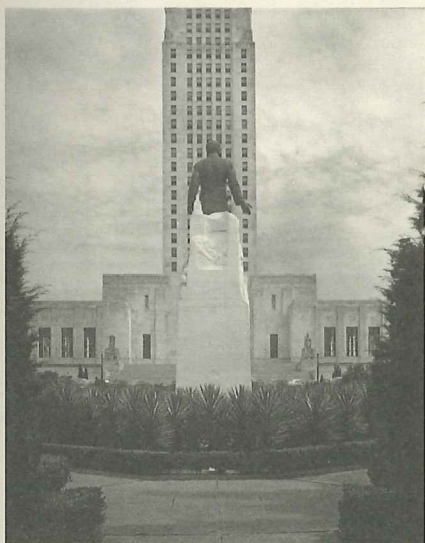
Huey Long; ca. 1932; ink and watercolor by John McCrady; courtesy of Keith and Millie Marshall



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*On the cover: Huey Pierce Long Monument, Baton Rouge,
with Capitol behind; 1940s; photoprint by Charles L. Franck
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